

# Volunteer Connections

for Children, Youth & Families Division Volunteers



:: Fall 2011 :: Issue 2 ::

The July issue for this year has become the Fall issue instead as I was out most of the season due to an accident. I apologize for the late publication of this issue! -Laurie Eytel

## Inside this issue:

## 2011 Volunteer Fairfax Awards Ceremony



More than **400** guests attended this year's April awards ceremony at the Waterford at Springfield. Groups and individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions.

**Marlis McCollum and Jennie Hibbert** were nominated in the *Benchmark Award* category. This category represents volunteers who have given over 250 hours of volunteer service in 2010. Marlis mentors with the BeFriend-A-Child Mentoring Program, and Jennie Hibbert knits finger puppets which represent a character in a book, which are given to each child during the Parenting Education Program graduations.



Marlis



Jennie

Our competitive awards nominees, who volunteer with the Parenting Education Programs, were: **Lisa Chesley** and the **Springfield Mothers/Daughters Group**.

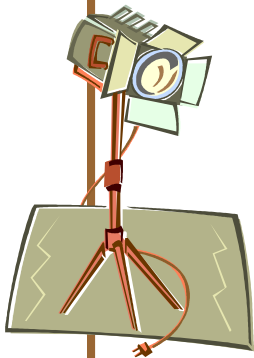
We are happy to announce that **Lisa Chesley** was the award recipient in a new category, *Fairfax County Volunteer Award*. She has been with the program as a facilitator working with our African American Culture curriculum since 2006, and her creative program enhancements and caring, engaging attitude towards the families she works with is a wonderful asset. She was also a BeFriend-A-Parent mentor in 2007.

The **Springfield Mothers/Daughters Group** received the *Adult Volunteer Group Award*. They have been with the program since 2008. They were part of a girl scout troop and provided dinners to the families attending the parenting classes in Springfield. After the troop's activities ended, four moms—led by **Leigh Ann Keller** and their four daughters - continued on as a group providing this service, as well as providing other support services to the families. The initiative was the idea of the group's eighth grade daughters! What a wonderful group to give so unselfishly of their time, and what a great initiative by the girls to suggest it.

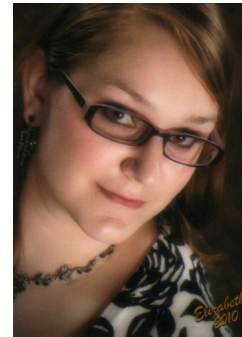


A big thank you to all the award nominees and recipients for their ongoing support in serving Fairfax County residents!

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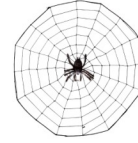
## Volunteer Spotlight - Elizabeth Esser



Elizabeth Esser was first introduced to the wonderful programs that Fairfax County offers, and the volunteers that dedicate their time to helping others, through an internship with Volunteer Solutions, a subgroup of the Area Agency on Aging. This internship was part of the Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program, for which she was selected as a junior to represent Centreville High School. Elizabeth found the dedication of the amazing employees and volunteers that were constantly coming up with new ways to improve others' quality of life truly inspiring. Having always been interested in serving the community and helping others, this internship was a perfect fit for her and she continued volunteering with the agency after the completion of her internship.

Unfortunately, during her senior year at Centreville, Elizabeth was diagnosed with several chronic health conditions, and although she graduated as a valedictorian, she has not been able to attend college. Unable to continue volunteering, she looked for new ways to carry on helping others from home and discovered that she could crochet while lying down without worsening her symptoms. Elizabeth has made dozens of baby blankets and baby clothing items for underprivileged and teen moms, lap blankets for residents of nursing homes, and hats and scarves for those in need. Through these activities she is able to make a difference and find purpose while undergoing treatments for her illnesses. Elizabeth stays optimistic about recovering and hopes to attend Georgetown University and go into the field of social work.

## Interesting Web Sites



1. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare> This section of the county's web site has tips for individuals and families to help prepare for a variety of emergency situations that can occur at home, at work, and at school.

2. <http://www.virginiadot.org> The Virginia Department of Transportation's web site contains lots of useful information to keep you up to date on transportation-related issues in the region and state. Topics on the FAQs page include updates on road construction projects, how to obtain a driver's license, reporting potholes, and using HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes.

3. <http://www.fcps.edu/aceclasses/>  
This web site allows you to look at the catalog of fall classes being offered by the Fairfax County Public Schools Adult and Community Education program. Classes are offered in a variety of areas, including arts, communication, business, languages, and personal growth. Tuition prices vary depending on which class you wish to take.



Nobody made a  
greater mistake  
than he who did  
nothing because he  
could only do a  
little.

~Edmund Burke

### Please Note:

If you prefer phone communication or United States mail instead of e-mail, please let me (Laurie) know at 703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452.

Please note, however, that regarding mailed items, such as this newsletter, we are promoting environmentally friendly and cost saving measures by sending items electronically.

Thank you!

## Welcome to Kelsie Lanier-Carter

Please welcome Kelsie to the Parenting Education Programs staff. She will be working extensively with the African American Culture Curriculum programs. She received her Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of South Carolina, and her Masters degree in Educational and Developmental Psychology with an emphasis in Counseling and Development from George Mason University. She has completed coursework towards a PhD in Counseling Psychology and plans to complete her doctorate in the near future.

Kelsie is the President and co- founder of DMAD Consulting Firm Inc., which stands for **Differences Make A Difference**. She and her business partner (her mom) educate individuals on how to deal with conflicting messages that we receive in matters of race, gender and lifestyle.

Kelsie has worked for and volunteered for many nonprofit community focused organizations such as : the Charles Houston Recreation Center, the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Boys and Girls Club to name just a few of many. She also established The Center for Community Resilience, which helped hundreds of families deal with the trauma of Hurricane Katrina. The list goes on, but we don't have enough room to list all of her accomplishments here!

Kelsie's most recent work has been with Military One Source as a Family Consultant where she counseled and provided support and resources for military families in need.

Her most valuable and rewarding title is mother and wife. She is married to Lt. Col. George Carter USAF and they have a three-year-old daughter named Maelyn.



We are happy to have Kelsie with her wealth of knowledge and experience contribute to our programs!

Years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

~Mark Twain

### Upcoming Parenting Education Groups:

Please contact Laurie at 703-324-7871, [leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you wish to facilitate with one or more of these groups.

The following groups meet 5:30-8 p.m. in 2011 and will be conducted in English unless otherwise noted:

9/26 - 12/19	Mon	Ages 5-11	Alexandria	13 weeks
9/27 - 12/20	Tues	Ages 5-11 (Spanish)	Herndon	13 weeks
9/27 - 12/20	Tues	Ages 5-11	Centreville	13 weeks
9/29 - 12/22	Thurs	Parent/Adolescent	Springfield	12 weeks
10/17 - 1/30/2012	Mon	Ages 5-11	Annandale	13 weeks
12/15 - 5/10/2012	Thurs	Ages 0-4 (Spanish)	Fairfax	21 weeks

Laurie Eytel -Editor

Leigh Giza - Assistant Editor

Fairfax County

**Department of Family Services**

Children, Youth and Families Division

Child Abuse Prevention Services

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#### Our web site:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/about/volops.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/about/volops.htm)



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call 703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452. Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements. This information is available in alternate formats by calling 703-324-7871; TTY 703-222-9452.

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